

# MR. PRESIDENT: WHY NOT GIVE THE COAL MINERS THEIR TWO DOLLARS A DAY INCREASE AND A YEAR'S CONTRACT?



VOL. V.—NUMBER 35

MONTEREY COUNTY

## LABOR NEWS

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1943

WHOLE NUMBER 1180



### ALIOTO SEEKS CITY COUNCIL POSITION

#### Fishermen's Union Chief At Monterey in Contest

Vito B. Alioto, business agent for the AFL Seine & Line Fishermen's Union of Monterey, is a candidate for city council in the elections next Monday at Monterey, he and four others seeking two vacant posts.

Alioto is well-known to Organized Labor in the area, having been business agent of the fishermen for five years and active before that time. He has done valiant service for the fishermen and has been a good leader.

In his statement on his candidacy, Alioto says:

"I have lived in this community with the exception of five years since 1916. I was raised in this community and received my education in the Monterey schools.

"Practically all my life I have been connected with the fishing industry, first as a fisherman and since 1938 as business agent of the Seine and Line Fishermen's Union of Monterey, a labor organization. I have been elected to that post

less of nationality, creed or color, and to properly organize all of our citizens in civilian defense responsibility, to cooperate with our armed forces in this area. To do everything humanly possible to insure the hundreds of our boys in the armed forces who will return home after the war, that their city is being operated in a responsible manner, not only to insure maximum efficiency in the war effort, but to insure employment and decent living standards for the men who are giving their all in order to preserve the American way of life.

"Therefore, you are about to will have the difficult job of re-elect two new city councilmen who represent the people of their city in conducting its affairs. It is not an easy job, nor one that a person undertakes without a great deal of consideration.

#### WELL ACQUAINTED

"However, the City of Monterey has been good to me. I have been made my living here, my future like your own depends on the constant progress of our community.

annually for the past five years by the members of our union, who up to the outbreak of the war numbered approximately 1200.

"Being business agent of a labor organization most naturally has given me an opportunity to come into contact with people of all walks of life, professionals, business, laborers, and tourists. I have had various problems that have arisen from time to time which not only meant the welfare of the people I represent, but the community as a whole. I have been called upon to make decisions which demanded a keen and precise conclusion, and my being elected to my job continuously and having the record of being fair in all of our business negotiations, proves that I have been capable of handling my job.

"Having lived in Monterey since childhood, I am familiar with the desires, general welfare, and problems of our city, as well as all of our citizens. I am positive that everyone living here realizes that the progress of our citizens is mutually dependent upon the success, comfort, and prosperity of all of our residents, all of our industries, businesses and all of our welfare agencies.

#### POST-WAR PROBLEM

"We, who are not on duty with the armed forces have a dual responsibility to perform during the present emergency, and after, by assuming a responsible interest in our community affairs by serving in the proper administrations of our city government, to promote harmony and responsibility in industry so that maximum efficiency in our war effort will be obtained and to capitalize to the utmost our national slogan, of good neighbor policy, by understanding and co-operating with each other regard-

"I believe that the work I have been doing as business agent of the local Seine and Line Fishermen's Union for the past five years has given me a perfect training for the job as city councilman.

"The only promise that I will make is, that if elected I will represent the whole community to the best of my ability.

"I am willing to undertake the job. If you would like to have me serve you I would appreciate your vote.

"VITO B. ALIOTO."

### Salinas Council Names Bond Group

A special committee to study sale of war bonds and possibly to promote another campaign such as the "Buy a Bomber" drive here last year, was named by the labor council last week.

On the committee are Mrs. Dorothy McAnaney, Amos Schofield and Secretary W. G. Kenyon.

### Building Trades Moves Monterey Headquarters

Monterey County Building & Construction Trades Council has moved its headquarters from the old Carpenters' Hall in New Monterey to the State Theatre Building, 411 1/2 Alvarado St., in the heart of downtown Monterey.

All affiliated crafts of the Building Trades Council which have met in the old hall have changed meeting place to the new location. The old hall will be remodeled into living quarters.

The move was negotiated by Dale Ward, B. T. C. business manager, and Carpenters Union 1323.

The new hall is a spacious, modern, well lighted and ventilated room with seating for some 300 persons and with ample office and

### LOCAL 483 SPEAKS

(Bartenders, Hotel & Restaurant Employees No. 483)

#### DID YOU KNOW—?

That our union's contract is being signed by houses and will soon be sent to the War Labor Board for approval?

The new contracts call for raises as follows: Bartenders \$1.00 per day; Cooks, \$1.00; Waitresses, 50 cents; Dish Washers, 75 cents, and Miscellaneous Workers, 75 cents.

That Sec. Pearl was proffered the spaghetti dinner she was waiting for, but was unable to be present? (Now she's waiting for another invite.)

That Ex-B.A. Mac is bartender two days a week?

That Al Pottharst, former secretary, no longer is managing The Keg, but is at the Brown Derby? Jimmie Brown is running The Keg now.

That we are having many withdrawals of members now—people going into more essential work, to Alaska, etc.?

—LMA WATCHIN.

### WHAT THE UNIONS REPORT

Salinas, California. Laborers—All working, plans calling for new jobs here being watched closely; construction here includes WAAC headquarters and dehydration plant.

Carpenters—Regular routine meeting, two initiations, seven clearances, all busy, men needed, bought 11th \$100 bond.

Culinary Alliance—Regular routine meeting, good attendance, 16 initiations in April, some departures via traveling cards but membership rising.

Barbers, Ladies Auxiliary to Carpenters, Electricians—No meetings.

### Big Job Due For Salinas, Unions Report

A number of large jobs, headed by the current-being-constructed dehydration plant and a proposed housing project for WAACS, will keep Salinas building tradesmen busy for coming months, report union officials.

The WAAC base will be near the airport, with quarters for 150 of the service women at first, more buildings later, it was stated. The dehydration plant is under construction and a lettuce leaf drying plant for a cattle feed will be started shortly, it was reported.

Another big project for Salinas soon will be a \$200,000 program for building trucks for the army and sugar beet loading machines for the Spreckels plant, due to go to the Gaudin Motors, according to reports.

We have had two letters from Tom Castro this month. Tom is still in the Islands as is his brother, Frank. You asked about Sal in your last letter, Tom, well, Sal is with the Golden State Meat Co.

At least he is there if they haven't closed within the past 24 hours. We heard that the plant would close for a short time.

Alanzo Dufur is located at Miami, Florida. Bill Moorhead at De Land, Florida, Maynard Kiser at Jacksonville, Florida and a few more of our boys are on their way to Florida.

Peterson's Slaughterhouse was closed by the O.P.A. and will not open for some time. That leaves our Watsonville Local pretty short of members as the men will most

### BUTCHERS 506 SEND APRIL NEWS LETTER TO SOLDIERS

Following is the April issue of the monthly news letter sent from Butchers Union 506 of San Jose area to members serving in the armed forces. The letter is published here that all local butchers may receive the greetings from those serving:

San Jose, Calif.

April 20, 1943.

Greetings:

Another month has rolled by, and we are deep in the rationing of meat. We have been rationed for several weeks now and it isn't as bad as we expected—16 points per person per week for meat, cheese, butter and oil. Of course, the people are a little shy about spending these points, but one pound of butter is 8 points and steaks are 8 points per pound also. What is really happening is the expensive cuts are going begging.

When a butcher sees his highest priced cuts spoiling, he requests the Rationing Board to allow him to reduce the point value so that the meat won't spoil. I am sure when this system really gets going that we will have more meat than we had in the past.

We are using the old style of cutting known as the "Chicago style." There are nine cuts: Round, Rump, Tip, Loin, Plate 8, Prime Rib, Chuck, Neck, Shank.

At the present time we have 92 members in the service. The newest additions are H. Bachman and Walter Wahlrab, both of Palo Alto. Medical Discharges were issued to James Traina and George Oliver.

We have received many letters this month from our boys. Earl Stout writes that he received his cigarettes. He says that they have plenty of meat in the Islands even though it is frozen. He likes the Army life pretty well.

Also Harold Burns writes he received his cigarettes and smoked them while he had the measles. He is a third class petty officer and cuts meat as well as cooks.

We received a swell letter from Art Volkman, who is stationed at McDill Field, Tampa, Florida. He tells us he enjoys these letters and wants us to keep them coming. He was transferred from Colorado to Florida.

Congratulations go to Louie Moro as he is a proud pappy to an 8-pound baby girl. He recently was in to see us on his way home to see his daughter. He looks fine and feels swell. His letter to us was very interesting as he told us of the different way the Army cuts meat. He cut 1,000 pork chops for about 400 men—that's two a piece and then some.

We heard from Joe Rositano, who is located in Alaska. His address is: Sgt. Joseph S. Rositano, 42nd Station Hospital, A.P.O. 939, care Postmaster, Seattle, Wash. Some of you fellows with time on your hands write to Joe.

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Francis (Red) Bilodeaux, who were married Feb. 27, 1943. Mrs. Bilodeaux will have her hands full taming that redhead. We were very happy to hear of your marriage, Red, and of your good luck on those tires.

We also heard from Kenneth Nelson, formerly of Nelson Meat & Livestock Co., who is stationed at Greenville, Penn. He went into the Army as a truck driver and turned out to be an Army clerk.

The letter was swell; write again. Tony Tedesco is stationed at Camp Barkley, Texas. He is a cook and cooks work 15 hours with 24 hours off. No Union there. Uncle Sam didn't pay any attention to the notation on your envelope, Tony; the letter came just as slow as usual. He is in the same company as Lester Nunes, our boy from King City.

We have had two letters from Tom Castro this month. Tom is still in the Islands as is his brother, Frank. You asked about Sal in your last letter, Tom, well, Sal is with the Golden State Meat Co.

At least he is there if they haven't closed within the past 24 hours. We heard that the plant would close for a short time.

Alanzo Dufur is located at Miami, Florida. Bill Moorhead at De Land, Florida, Maynard Kiser at Jacksonville, Florida and a few more of our boys are on their way to Florida.

likely look for employment elsewhere. Nelson Meat & Livestock Co. closed for one week, giving their employees a week's vacation with pay. Several other plants have threatened to close as they all claim they are losing money on everything they are killing.

A new jobbinghouse has opened in Mt. View known as the Quick Freeze Co. They are boning and packing for the Government. By May 15 they will be working a full crew.

The District Council of Butchers of Local 506 met last Sunday in San Jose. A lot of business was transacted including another assessment to carry on the dues for you boys. Our membership has fallen off quite a bit as the boys are leaving for Defense work. However, we showed a gain of over \$300.00 for the quarter. Women are coming back into the markets again as our men are leaving.

A peppy letter was received from Leo Haverley of Monterey, who is located in Alaska. He tells us of an argument he had with some of his buddies regarding Unions. He said Kasper should have heard him. He showed them our letters and also told them about the bonds we are buying. Then he closed by saying, "Today I did a little writing for all of you on a calling card to our little friends. I wrote the Local number, your name, Kasper Bauer's, and the gang from Western Meat, and when they get it, I just know they will receive it with a bang." We sure hope so.

Thanks to the following boys for their letters: Sgt. Phil Valdez, Radio Operator Lance Cirone, Cpl. Jerry Fox, Pvt. Lester Nunes, Sgt. Tony Sparacino, Sgt. Fred Siems, Cpl. Joe Benevento, who was in to see us while on his furlough, and E. M. 3/C Bill Seibel.

Brother Deal of Palo Alto sends greetings "from the snow covered plains of Wyoming, 6,600 feet above sea level." He enjoys the Army life and feels sorry for the boys left behind. Well, we do get a little meat to eat and a little meat to eat; so maybe you should be sorry for us.

Rene Bourdet has changed his address. He is a cook on a destroyer and has been across once and will soon make another trip across. When this mess is over, we will let you boys cook us a feed at our first get together.

We attended the funeral of Brother Downing, one of our old time members from Saratoga. He has been ill for some time, and it is better as it is, because he suffered considerably.

We will close this letter now with the hope that soon we will all be together again, and the lights will shine again all over the world. Keep your chins up and we will be seeing you.

Your sisters and brothers of Local 506,

EARL A. MOORHEAD, Secretary.

### Ball's Children Sent By Moose To Good School

Two children of the late Frank D. Ball, popular business manager for Laborers Union 272 of Salinas, have been taken in hand by the Moose Lodge and sent to Mooseheart, the crack school for children at Illinois.

The two youngsters, Royale and Shirley, were given a farewell dinner last week by the Moose, with many labor leaders attending. Mary Wergin, who was housekeeper for the Ball family, was to accompany the children to the school.

Frank Ball died nearly a year ago, succumbing to a heart attack. The youngsters have been under supervision of the Moose for much of the interim, while red tape was being cut to get them into Mooseheart.

### Boarding Houses Are Subject to Social Security

Cooks, maids, and other employees of boarding houses are covered by old-age and survivors insurance provisions of the social security act, it was announced today by the social security board.

This means operators of boarding houses must withhold one percent from the paychecks of their employees and pay it to the collector of internal revenue along with an additional one per cent tax. The deadline for filing returns with the collector for the first quarter of 1943 is April 30.

The situation was explained by John J. Cassidy, manager of the San Jose area office of the social security board.

"The war," he said, "has brought about an increase in business and numerous boarding houses have come into existence, especially in industrial areas and in the vicinity of military camps; and although it is generally understood that employees of cafes, hotels, restaurants, etc., are subject to the law, very few owners of boarding houses realize that their employees come within the provisions of the old-age and survivors insurance program.

"Even though a boarding house has only one part-time employee," he continued, "that employee should have a social security account number and should show it to the boarding house so that he, in turn, may include it in the quarterly wage tax report required by law."

It was emphasized, however, that such work in boarding houses should be clearly distinguished from out and out domestic labor in private homes which, of course, is exempt.

### Monterey Jobs Seen; May Need More Men Soon

A number of new jobs are expected to open up soon in Monterey, including a large glass plant, and more men are expected to be needed for building crafts, reports Dale Ward, business manager of the Building Trades Council at Monterey.

Ward said the airport job is nearing its completion, but that all building tradesmen are employed and will continue to be absorbed by coming work.

Among coming projects are the 40-building hospital job at Fort Ord, the Owens-Illinois glass plant unit in Monterey, and the school job at Ord Village.

### ALONG CANNERY ROW (AFL Fish Cannery Workers)

Henry Lewis, good member here for 10 years, died last week and he will be sorely missed by his many friends.

The executive board met last Monday for a busy session.

Neva Davis Sundstrom, former secretary of the union, visited Monterey last week. She's living at Oakland but came here on real estate matters. She visited the office where she was heartily welcomed.

Nothing much doing along the Row these days.

Vito Alioto, the fishermen's business agent, is running for city council, we see. Good luck, Bill.

Morg King and Louis Martin journeyed to Salinas several times at request of the labor council there to study some organizational work proposals.

Tex Skinner, S. U. P. secretary, was here this week on important business.

See you next week, if Morg King will remember to send the refill for the can!

—THE CAN OPENER.

### CASE OF COAL MINERS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. President, we are this week addressing our editorial to you for the reason that it seems appropriate to handle the miners case now before our country in this way.

We have followed the events of recent days in the case of the miners. We have noted the reactions of the miners and we heard your talk on the radio last Sunday night.

Putting many angles, reports and past experiences you have had with John L. Lewis, all together, we take it that you are pretty much displeased with him. We don't blame you for that. As you well know there are many members of both the A. F. of L. and C. I. O., who are just as displeased with him as you are, yes, perhaps more so. But all that is beside the point for the reason that the case of the miners is an entirely different matter than John L. Lewis. What we are really dealing with is half a million miners, who are trying to get consideration and relief from grievances that are painfully real to them.

Our hearts go out to these miners. Their lot in life has been a hard and trying one. But they have been leaders and pioneers in building labor unions. We honor them for that and appreciate the tremendous aid they have given us. They have been members of the A. F. of L., and C. I. O. Now, they do not affiliate with either. We bear them no ill will for that. We are probably more to blame than they are for them being outside the fold at the present time. Be that as it may we have not forgotten that the mine workers have come to our rescue in many a bitter struggle of the past.

From the days of Divine Right Baer to the present day the miners have had to struggle, O, so dreadfully hard, for every little gain they have made. They have had to strike again and again to get anywhere at all. What they did gain was generally granted grudgingly and reluctantly and then only after weeks and months of suspension of mining operations.

As matters stand today the mineworkers are probably the poorest paid of all the well organized branches of labor. The reason for this is that the mine operators have always resisted all their demands most stubbornly.

While our other labor organizations have been enabled to forge ahead by leaps and bounds in improving wage scales and working conditions the poor miners had to fight much harder than we to gain much less. Yet these same miners have helped us very materially in securing the working conditions we now enjoy. So you can readily realize why it is that our hearts, from all parts of the United States, go out to the miners. Giving them \$2.00 a day increase still leaves their wage scale below that of most of the rest of us.

We all know we are at war. We are tremendously anxious to win this war just as soon as possible. In fact we are impatient with the slowness with which our military forces are proceeding. Somehow we feel that with all the ships, planes, tanks and guns we have thus far produced to win this war with, that larger major operations should be in progress than have yet been launched. But we are not finding fault. We know there are many big obstacles to overcome, so we are waiting as patiently as we can. As you well know we are buying war bonds and keeping the production front moving right along.

We know we need coal miners to produce the coal necessary to do the many things that must be done to win the war, and in which coal is an essential factor. We hope there won't be any mine strike at the end of the fifteen-day truce the miners have agreed to. The one sure way to avert such a calamity is to grant them their two dollars a day wage increase and give them a year's contract, not because John Lewis is asking this, but because the half million miners feel they are entitled to it, and because we must admit that they of all present day workers, are justly entitled to this increase.

The reason for all this is perfectly understandable to all of us. The miners are asking for this increase because their living costs have increased more than an average of two dollars a day. The miners are not the ones who boosted these living costs. Yet to them it means lowering of living standards, whenever prices go up.

When labor agreed that there would be no strikes for the duration it was with the further understanding that prices would also be frozen for the same period.

You have made much headway in freezing prices. We have the plan in operation on the Pacific Coast and appreciate very deeply all that it has done for us. But we know from our own experience that the profiteers find all kinds of ways to puncture your price ceilings full of holes and they seem to be getting by with it. What is more you let the prices climb too much before you froze them.

It is comforting, Mr. President, and we believe you mean it, when you say that price levels must be forced down to lower levels than prevail today. But when all is said and done the only element that really counts is the extent of the performance. Price ceilings are meaningless and have no existence in reality, except to the extent to which such ceilings are rigorously and actually enforced after having been set at fair levels. The same is true of all laws and government orders, whether issued in war time or peace time.

(Continued on Page 2)



## MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

Office at Labor Temple, 117 Pajaro St., Salinas, California  
Entered as Second Class Matter February 20, at the Post Office at Salinas, California, Under the Act of March 3, 1879  
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
Official Organ of the Central Labor Union of Monterey County, Salinas, California.  
Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council, Monterey, California.  
Monterey County Building Trades Council, Monterey, California.

OLYMPIC PRESS, INC., Publishers  
JOSEPH BREDSTEEN, Managing Editor  
PRESS COMMITTEE AT SALINAS  
Mrs. Jessie King, Culinary Alliance  
Mrs. Dorothy McAnany, Carpenters Auxiliary  
PRESS COMMITTEE AT MONTEREY  
Wayne Edwards, Representing Central Labor Council  
Dale Ward, Representing Building Council

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$2.00  
One year  
Six months  
Single Copies .15  
Special rates to members of organized labor subscribing in a body through their Unions

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION  
Address all Communications to the LABOR NEWS,  
Post Office Box 1410, Salinas, California.

The editorial policy of this paper is not reflected in any way by the advertisements or signed articles printed herein.

## CASE OF THE COAL MINERS BEFORE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

(Continued from Page 1)

More power to you, Mr. President, in your efforts to stabilize prices. It is the sure way to get rid of strikes for the duration. Had prices been definitely frozen the same day war was declared, there would be no two dollar demand from the miners today. Let us not forget that. Our failure to act then is the real reason for the miners being restive today. Our loud-talking national law-makers are wholly to blame for that failure and you doubtless remember how tough those same fellows made it for you to get done what has thus far been accomplished on price ceilings. But let us not blame the miners for the failure of our lawmakers in Washington to do their plain duty.

It is argued in many quarters that the miners should have submitted their case to the War Labor Board and abided by the results. After the deal the workers who build the Flying Fortresses at Seattle got at the hands of this War Labor Board one can hardly blame the miners for not wanting to submit their case to them. If the so-called steel formula is to be the maximum advance that can be hoped for regardless of how much prices have jumped beyond that, then who can blame the miners for not wanting such a board to decide their fate? The workers in the Seattle factory, where our Flying Fortresses are made, hoped for a fair deal, that they did not get from the War Labor Board. There was no good reason why they should not have been granted what they asked for, which was a wage equal to that received by other shipyard workers on the Pacific Coast, but the War Labor Board did not grant it. Less than half was granted by this board. That did not sit good out have on the Pacific Coast, in labor circles.

Now, since we have taken over all the mines, and you are in a position to talk turkey directly to the miners it should be possible for you to work out something with the miners, that will be acceptable to them. Their wishes certainly should not be ignored in order to ram something down their throats that may be 100 per cent acceptable to the mine owners, but not acceptable at all to the miners.

After all, we need the services of miners in order to keep the output of coal coming right along. They are the ones, above all others to be satisfied, and if you neglect to work out something that is acceptable to them you might find yourself in the unpleasant predicament of having very few miners to get coal with after the fifteen-day truce ends. We would all suffer for that. We sincerely hope you will never permit such an eventuality to grow out of the present mine situation.

Some people say it would be treason for the miners not to continue working when our country is at war. Some say they have no right to quit work at such a time. Some say all strikes must now be abolished by law and others gleefully announce the day of conscript labor for which they have been clamoring for years is now here.

This brings us face to face with the darkest part of this whole picture, which is: What may happen if no settlement is reached during these fifteen truce days?

It is not a question of what ought to happen or what this, that or the other wise-acre may think will happen if, for instance you should take a firm stand for what the mineowners and their allies of low-wage paying employers may like to have you do. They would doubtless like to see you grant nothing and simply order the miners to go to work at their old wages.

Such an ultimatum to the miners at the present time would very likely precipitate a walkout of the coal miners, despite all the anti-strike laws, conscript labor laws or any other laws Congress might pass.

You might force a coal miner to go down in the mines at the point of a gun but if he folded his arms and refused to mine coal, how would you make him do it?

The other way is the strikebreaking way of getting people who are willing to work as strikebreakers.

It would ill become you, Mr. President, to be wasting valuable time rounding up scabs to break such a strike of coal miners. It certainly would not help our war effort and that should be the main consideration.

You have had such a swell record for fair dealing with organized labor ever since you became President that it would be a tragedy for you to get off on the wrong foot in this miner's dispute, simply because a lot of anti-labor fanatics are so infernally anxious to have you do it.

The best interests of the country demand that this miner's situation be so handled that no strike mars our industrial horizon at the present time.

Remember, Mr. President, that if you grant the coal miners everything they are asking they will still be getting lower wages than most of the rest of us are enjoying right now. Is not this a good and valid reason for hearing the still voice that calls for justice, too long deferred, in the case of our hard working coal miners?

# VICTORY THROUGH UNIONISM

## CHAPTER VII Labor "Rewards Its Friends And Punishes Its Enemies"

Ten national unions were formed in 1864 and 1865; twenty-six from 1862 to 1872. They included plasterers, leather workers, carpenters, cigar makers, coach makers, painters, tailors, bricklayers, masons, telegraphers, mechanics, etc. Early in the Civil War, unskilled immigrant workers brought into the country to fill the need for labor, had been accepted into the unions; however—largely because of the language handicap—it took some time to make them good members and leaders.

The first national-wide meeting of unions took place on August 20, 1866, at Baltimore, Maryland. Seventy-seven delegates from fifty trade unions and thirteen trades assemblies organized the National Labor Union which passed resolutions in favor of organization of unskilled workers, independent political action by unions, distribution of land, improved working conditions for women, and the eight-hour day. This helped lay the foundation for modern unionism. However, the National Labor Union did not last long—only until 1872—nor did it accomplish much, as it made two major mistakes in failing to create a permanent organization, and in underestimating the strike as a weapon able to win objectives. But the lesson of strength through solidarity was learned.

Some of the Baltimore Convention delegates came from eight-hour leagues. The ten-hour day was then prevailing for craftsmen, a much longer one for unskilled workers. The National Labor Union agitated for state legislation, and secured eight-hour laws in half a dozen states in 1867. In 1868 Congress passed an eight-hour law for laborers, workers and mechanics. These laws were so evasively worded as to permit violation. "They were frauds on the laboring class." The National Labor Union then resolved on strikes. There were strikes in 1868 of the Pennsylvania miners and New York bricklayers. Three hundred thousand workers were out for three months in New York, and won the eight-hour day for building trades workers. However, the depression of 1873 wiped out their gains.

Only much later did the eight-hour day really become law in the United States.

## CHAPTER VI National Labor Organization Becomes A Grown-Up American Citizen

Before the Civil War, America was a nation of farmers, and its industry was "small business." After the Civil War, it became a nation of cities, and of a large scale industry that was to give birth to monopoly.

We pushed Westward. In 1860 California quadrupled its 1850 population. Railroads reached the West Coast three thousand miles from the growing industries of the East. The market expanded, appeared limitless.

Great inventions, such as the telegraph, the reaper, the shoe and sewing machines were patented. The great oil industry (started in 1859) made Cleveland an oil refining center. Opening of Lake Superior iron and copper mines created North Eastern Ohio industries with Pittsburgh and Youngstown as their cities. Railroads, grains and wheat had Chicago. These new industries, built on new fast machinery requiring little skill, created a partially trained worker without stake in a special craft, interested primarily in working for a day wage; this was especially so for shoemakers, iron and steel workers, machinists, molders, coopers and cigar makers. The former skilled craftsmen, unable to compete, were losing their independence and forming a new small group of skilled wage workers.

During these prosperous years there was a shortage of labor and workers could demand higher wages. But the American manufacturers, just as they had done in former times, to keep wages down and profits up, built a labor reserve through inducing immigration of European labor. From 1871 to 1880, 2,812,191 immigrants entered the United States; from 1881 to 1890, 5,246,613; from 1891 to 1900, 3,844,420; from 1901 to 1910, 8,795,386.

However, every eight to ten years there were terrible "panics" and depressions—and though we somehow pulled through by moving West to pioneer when no jobs were available in the East, there was great unrest among workers at such times because of unemployment and misery.

The immigrants were played off against the American born. Since the "foreigners" thus appeared responsible for the lower wage scale,

By this time American workers understood that the laboring man must fight to defend his interests and to advance to a fuller life; fight for better wages, hours and working conditions, for lower living costs, for protection against unemployment, for employers' responsibility in case of accidents on the job; and that this fight could be successful only through stronger organization. The right to organize and strike without being labelled "conspirator" had also to be fought for. These fights were also an important part of America's progressing democracy, the workers' battles being the battles of the little people—"the public." These lessons were driven home to the workers in all the great events of the period extending from 1895 to the first World War.

At first in the American Federation of Labor, "pure and simple" trade unionism—and for the skilled workers only—was the restricted goal; "the primary essential" wrote Gompers, "has been the protection of the wage worker now; to increase his wages; to cut hours of the long work day . . . and to improve the safety and the sanitary conditions of the work-shop; to free him from the tyrannies . . . which make his existence a slavery." Those . . . were and are the primary objects of trade unionism." However limited in vision, however insufficient in practice, this policy of organization on the job greatly strengthened the movement because these are matters of great concern to workers. The American Federation of Labor grew from 276,000 members in 1898 to 2,457,000 in 1917.

The demand for "eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will" was the main demand. The Federation took part in making the anniversary of the eight-hour strike of May first 1886 an international labor day (May Day); its unions led many strikes for shorter hours. The United Mine Workers strike of 1897 won the eight-hour day for wage increases, and union recognition in soft coal. The granite cutters won the eight-hour day in 1900. The bitter five months' strike of the United Mine Workers in 1902 won only the nine-hour day in hard coal, but from the previous ten-hour day, six-day week. In most of the large cities, the Typographical Unions won the eight-hour day by 1907. Similar victories were chalked up later by printers, metal workers, railway trainmen (independent), clothing workers, etc., and unions of Industrial Workers of the World. As a result of these actions, hours worked fell off a great deal from year to year. In manufacturing industries, they declined from 10. in 1890 to 9.8 in 1900, to 9.4 in 1910, and to 8.5 in 1920. The shorter-hours struggle was typical of the Federation's "pure and simple" unionism in practice.

But the old influence of the Knights' broad political action off the job, and the growing strength of progressive ideas induced the A. F. of L. to take part in political campaigns to secure laws favorable to labor. The 1878 Annual Report to the American Federation of Labor Convention declared that: "No one having any conception of the labor problems . . . would for a moment . . . advise the workers to abstain from the exercise of their political rights and their political power . . . trade union action upon the surface is economic action, yet there is no act which the trade unions can take but which in its effects is political." This profound statement has too often been lost sight of; today more than ever it should be a watchword of the labor movement.

These progressive political ideas were strongly influencing certain American Federation of Labor unions such as the miners and brewery workers—organized on industrial lines; and their growing influence led the Federation to engage in political agitation. Whereas the 1902 American Federation of Labor Convention had turned down a resolution introduced by socialist Victor Berger favoring an old age pension campaign, the 1909 and 1911 Conventions endorsed a similar resolution and furthermore demanded a federal retirement law for all government employees. Besides, the growing attacks of organized employers forced the Federation to battle against anti-labor courts and legislatures. The National Association of Manufacturers, and similar employers' organizations fought bitter wars against attempts to form unions and to get union conditions on the job.

The United Hatters Union tried to make its strike against the firm of Loewe and Co. more effective by persuading the public to "boycott" Loewe's has, and succeeded so well that by the next year the company claimed it had lost eighty-eight thousand dollars. With the aid of the Anti-Boycott Association, the company used the

Sherman Act to sue the union for damages. This Act, supposedly passed to prevent formation of trusts and monopolies, declared illegal any "conspiracy in restraint of trade." The Hatters of Danbury, Conn., were found guilty of "conspiracy" in 1910 by the United States Supreme Court; the union members were condemned to pay two hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars in damages; many of the workers lost their homes and other personal possessions.

The stormy public protest, of which the American Federation of Labor was a part, succeeded in forcing the passage of the Clayton Act in 1914. Labor organizations were declared not to be "illegal combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade."

Another battle starting in the shop and ending up in Congress was forced upon the Federation by the combined attack of employers and the courts issuing "injunctions" against unions on strike. In 1910, New York City cloakmakers were on strike for a closed shop; the fourteen to sixteen-hour day prevailed during the busy season. A judge issued the usual "injunction" to stop peaceful picketing. This was making the strike illegal. The strikers disregarded it, and eighty-five pickets were arrested. This time-honored "government by injunction" threatened the very existence of the labor movement, and the American Federation of Labor battled against it by giving its votes only to those candidates for offices who declared themselves against the injunction and in support of the Federation's other political demands. This was labor's policy of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies." It was at best a poor substitute for a labor party, and won but minor victories, as for instance when the Clayton Act set restrictions on the use of injunctions in labor disputes. By the early 1930's only half the states had passed laws limiting the issuance of labor injunctions by state courts. By 1932 a similar law restricted Federal Courts' power.

As for the American Federation of Labor's program for common welfare it included general demands for child labor laws, for free schools and text books, playgrounds, voting rights for women, municipal ownership of public utilities, and government ownership of the telephone and telegraph, as early as 1906.

All during this period, there was a constant struggle within the Federation around the organization of unskilled workers, since Gompers and others of the conservative groups were strongly craft-minded. The "international" unions (so named because there were locals in Canada) were built around particular crafts; but the forward march of mass production in American industry watered down the highly trained skills and made the man on the production line more and more conscious—as the Knights had been—that he was a worker first and only next a craftsman. Then, the building trades brought to light other weaknesses of craft organization—for instance, on the one hand, carpenters and plasterers could have different contracts with the company so that if one union had a dispute with the contractors, the other would have either to stay on the job or to break its agreement; on the other hand, different craft unions often disagreed as to which workers often was allowed to organize. The brewery workers and the teamsters have fought each other since 1909 over the brewery truck drivers; similarly the sheet metal workers and the carpenters over metal trim and door workers. Gompers and the other conservatives were continually fighting the progressive miners, brewery workers, longshoremen, hod-carriers, etc.

The battle was serious: were unorganized workers to be brought into the American Federation of Labor at all? In the years before the first World War the Federation was forced to a greater degree of industrial unionism; first, industrial unions such as the United Mine Workers, the Brewery and later unions such as the United International Ladies Garment Workers had to be allowed in its ranks; then numerous "craft" unions taking in many related workers, became themselves more industrial in their set-up. For example, the hod-carriers organized common labor; teamsters organized chauffeurs and stablemen; carpenters organized woodworkers in factories. However, as the Federation's concern was with job control for the skilled worker, many thousands organized outside the A. F. of L. Almost one-fourth of all organized wage-earners in 1914 did not belong.

The powerful industrial Western Federation of Miners in 1906 expanded into the Industrial Workers of the World with considerable strength among the lumber workers, metal miners, migrant farm workers of the West Coast, and textile workers of Massachusetts. Gompers fought it to its end just before the first World War.

When America entered World War I—an imperialist war with "no humanitarian issues"—Gompers got the Federation to support it against a great deal of opposition from many A. F. of L. unions. "In

my broad travels, I find little sentiment among the working people in favor of this terrible war," J. P. White, President of the United Mine Workers, wrote to Gompers. The war created a business boom, but the workers' REAL WAGES fell, as the uncontrolled spiraling prices went up higher and faster than the rise in wages which labor was able to secure.

However, the effectiveness of the anti-labor "open shop" drive was lessened because government gave business a tremendous profit on governmental orders, and because the labor shortage gave labor more bargaining strength. The three million union membership of 1917 grew to five million in 1920; the A. F. of L. passed from two million to four million. The government had to give representation to labor in the National War Labor Board. The Board declared:

"The right of workers to organize in trade unions and to bargain collectively, through chosen representatives, is recognized and affirmed. This right shall not be denied, abridged, or interfered with by the employers in any manner whatsoever."

Though this declaration lacked the strength of a law passed by Congress, it was a step forward, a government recognition that the organized labor movement had come to stay.

Thus gains were made by labor, but only through its action on the political and industrial battlefield in furtherance of the working man's interests. The anti-labor forces were still very strong and active. Even during the war there were employers who used the War Labor Board to form and take unions under their own control: "company unions." Employers were preparing the great new trap of the "American Plan."

## CHAPTER VIII Organized Labor Fights for Its Life

Wages and the cost of living were at their highest points in 1919. Between 1913 and 1919 wages had gone up 55%; cost of living 104%. As usual, prices won the race. Having "saved the world for democracy," workers began to ask for something for themselves.

The A. F. of L. at its convention in June, 1919, adopted a "Reconstruction Program" for building national life on a peace basis. This program asked for the right to organize, an American standard of living, equal pay for women, abolition of child labor, government ownership of utilities, guarantee of free speech, progressive taxation, better housing, and bonuses for soldiers and sailors. The workers were anxious to achieve this program. Unfortunately, some of their leaders backed down when it came to a real showdown. The employers, however, "saw Red Revolution behind the demand for collective bargaining and bankruptcy behind each wage demand." They substituted the "American Plan."

The American Plan was an organized nation-wide employers' drive for the open shop. Open shop meant a shop closed to unionism. Big business used the word "reconstruction," too, but to it the word meant the annihilation of the trade union movement so it could have labor under its thumb. The open shop drive was intensified by the post-war depression that began in 1921. It was impossible to maintain production and war profits in the post-war period. Employers wanted to be able to refuse workers' demands for higher wages, and to cut wages. They were fearful of the effect of the Russian Revolution and other working-class revolts in Europe on the American worker. They decided among themselves that real unionism must disappear from the American scene.

The Plan had different results in different places, depending upon the strength of labor, the loyalty of the union leaders to the workers, the type of industry involved, and of course the economic power of the opposition. But the end result was that labor suffered a setback from which it did not recover until the 1930's. Labor contributed to this setback in failing to organize the unskilled, who comprise the majority of workers in such great industries as steel and auto.

Under the Plan, employers organized on a local, state, and national scale, through trade and industrial association, citizens' committees and patriotic clubs, Chambers of Commerce and bankers' associations, company unions and welfare associations, private employment agencies and detective agencies, local and state government and the courts. They tried to convince American workers that unions were un-American and unpatriotic, that they would be better off without them, that the company knew and would do what was best for its employees. Where persuasion failed, violence was used.

(To Be Continued)

When a man has a birthday, he takes a day off. When a woman has one, she takes a year off.

## Colorado Labor Girds Loins to Beat Slave Act

Denver, Colorado. The State Federation of Labor has voted to raise an initial fund of \$25,000 to fight the so-called labor peace bill which becomes law July 1.

Plans for a last-ditch fight against the bill were formulated at a special convention, convened months ahead of schedule. Within a few minutes after adoption of the resolution calling for a \$25,000 fund, more than \$4,000 was contributed by local unions.

The measure, which closely follows the pattern set by the Christian Americans in other states, prohibits workers from picketing, secondary boycotts and sitdown strikes; compels unions to incorporate and outlaws the checkoff.

## Flash!

There was a young chap named McComb,  
Who was cleaning his pants in his home,  
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## MONTEREY UNION DIRECTORY

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR—Vice-President for San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties—Thomas A. Small, San Mateo, California, Phone San Mateo 3-8789.

BAKERS 24 (Watsonville Branch)—Meets first Saturday of each month at 3 p.m. Pres. Jasper Siven, 202-C Third St., Rec. Sec. Martin Niebling, 28 East Ford St.; Bus. Rep. Fred L. Goudy, Labor Temple, San Jose, phone Ballard 6341.

BARBERS LOCAL 896—President Paul Mercurio; Secretary-Treas. A. H. Thompson, 243 Alvarado St., Monterey. Meetings held first Wednesday of each month at Bartenders' Hall, 301 Alvarado Ave.

BARTENDERS AND HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES 483—Meets first and third Mondays, 2:30 p.m. above The Kog, 301 Alvarado St., Pres. Arnd Smith; Sec. and Bus. Agent, Pearl Bennett.

BRICK MASON LOCAL UNION NO. 16—Meets Building Trades Hall, second and fourth Friday, 8:00 p.m. President F. B. Hair, P. O. Box 264, Watsonville; Fin.-Sec. M. Real, 154 Eldorado, Monterey, Phone 6745; Rec.-Sec. Geo. Houde, 208 Carmel Ave., Pacific Grove, Phone 3715.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF MONTEREY COUNTY—Meets every Thursday, 8:00 P.M., Building Trades Hall, 411 1/2 Alvarado St., State Theatre Building; W. J. Dickerson, Pres.; H. E. Ferguson, Fin. Sec., Dale Ward, Bus. Mgr. Office; 701 Hawthorne St. Phone 6744, Res. Phone 5230.

BUTCHERS 506 (Monterey Branch)—Pres. Phil Mosley; Rec. Sec. Ben Updyke; Bus. Agt., Earl Moorhead, San Jose, Columbia 2132.

CARPENTERS 1323—Meets first and third Monday 8:00 p.m. at Building Trades Hall, 411 1/2 Alvarado St., Monterey. Rec. Sec. W. J. Allen, 501 Forest, Pacific Grove, phone 3263; Bus. Agent-Fin. Sec. D. L. Ward, 400 Gibson Ave., office phone 6744, Res. 5230.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS NO. 1072—Meet in Building Trades Hall, Monterey, second Monday, 7:30 P.M. President, E. E. Smith; Financial Secy., R. H. Van DeBogart, 310 5th St., Pacific Grove, Phone 4800.

FIVE COUNTIES LABOR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE—Meets first Sunday each month at place announced. Pres. F. J. Carlisle; Vice-Pres., Wayne Edwards; Rec. Sec., Sibyl Schneller; Sec.-Treas., Roy Hossack, Route 2, Box 144, Salinas, Phone Salinas 5460.

AFL FISH CANNERY WORKERS UNION OF PACIFIC, MONTEREY COUNTY—Meets on call. Pres. Louis Martin; Sec. Morgan King; Bus. Agent, Ivan Sinner, Office, 648 Ocean View Ave.

HODCARRIERS, BUILDING AND COMMON LABORERS 690—Meet in New Labor Temple, Monterey, first and third Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Pres. Robert Dalton, 670 Cypress St., Fin. Sec., H. E. Ferguson, P. O. Box 425, Monterey; Rec. Sec., Stanley Wilkins, Pacific Grove; Ross Reese, Bus. Agt.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES AND MOTION PICTURE OPERATORS, LOCAL 611—Meets first Tuesday every other month 10 a.m. in Watsonville Labor Temple; Pres., Art Reina, 13 Kentucky St., Salinas; Bus. Agent, James Wild, 80 Payson St., Santa Cruz, Phone 2737-R; Rec. Sec., Chas. Covey, 364 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz.

LATHERS UNION NO. 463—Meets in Salinas Labor Temple second and fourth Fridays, 8 p.m. President, Roy R. Benge, Hilby St., Monterey, Phone Monterey 4820; Secretary-Treasurer, Dean S. Siefert, 1508 First St., Salinas, Phone Salinas 4674.

MONTEREY PENINSULA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL—Meets at Bartenders Hall, 301 Alvarado, first and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Pres., E. D. McCutcheon; Vice-Pres., Warren Lee; Sec. and Treas., Wayne Edwards, 823 Johnson Ave., phone 7622.

LABOR TEMPLE, 315 Alvarado, first and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Pres., E. D. McCutcheon; Vice-Pres., Warren Lee; Sec. and Treas., Thompson; Sec., Wayne Edwards, 823 Johnson Ave., phone 7622.

MONTEREY COUNTY FEDERATED TEACHERS NO. 457—Meet in Monterey second Wednesday, 5:00 P.M. Fin.-Sec. Wayne Edwards, 823 Johnson Ave., Monterey, Phone 7622.

MUSICIANS Local No. 616 Meets second Monday at 8:00 p.m., Bartenders Hall; Pres. Virgil McAllister; Sec.-Treas., Harry Judson.

MOTOR COACH EMPLOYEES, Division 192—President, Harry M. Fox Jr.; Secretary, Herman R. Bach.

PAINTERS, DECORATORS AND PAPER HANGERS 272—Meets second and fourth Tuesdays in Bartenders' Hall at 8:00 p.m. Pres., Elmer Brewer; Rec.-Sec., Irving Ask, Phone 8243; Fin. Sec., J. C. Underwood, Phone 8246; Treas., William Mayer, Phone 7905.

PLASTERERS AND CEMENT FINISHERS NO. 337—Meet first and third Friday, Building Trades Hall, Monterey, 8:00 p.m. President, Earl Smith, Monterey; Financial Secretary, V. J. Willoughby, 152 Carmel Avenue, Pacific Grove.

PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS NO. 62—Meet in Building Trades Hall, Monterey, second and fourth Friday at 8:00 p.m. President, J. Allen Wilson, 211 Ninth Street, Pacific Grove, Phone 4591; Fin.-Sec., Russell Sweetman, 707 Filmore St., Monterey, Phone 7086.

POST OFFICE CLERKS, Monterey Branch No. 1292 of National Federation of Post Office Clerks (AFL)—Meets first Friday of month. Pres., Boyd Beall; Vice-Pres., E. L. Edwards; Sec.-Treas., Art Hamill.

SEINE AND LINE FISHERMEN'S UNION—Meets monthly on full moon, 2:00 p.m., at Knights of Pythias Hall, Calle Principal; Secretary-Treasurer, John Crivello; Business Agent, Vito Alioto, Office 233 Alvarado St., Phone 3985.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 304—Meet every third Friday, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Salinas, Monterey. Pres., John Alsop, 308 19th St., Pacific Grove; Fin. Sec., F. F. Knowles, 232 River St., S. C., Ph. 12763.

GENERAL TEAMSTERS AND AUTO DRIVERS' UNION 287—Meets second Thursday of month at 7:30 p.m., Labor Temple, George W. Jenot, Sec.-Bus. Agt., 72 N. Second St., San Jose, Ballard 6316. For a representative of Monterey County call L. R. Carey, 117 Pajaro St., Salinas Phone 7590.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION NO. 543—C. R. McCloskey, President, Salinas; A. C. Davis, Sec.-Treas., 109 Prospect St., Watsonville. Phone 959-J. Meets last Sunday of the Month, alternating between Watsonville and Salinas.

UNITED SLATE, TILE & COMPOSITION ROOFERS, DAMP & WATER-PROOF WORKERS ASSOCIATION 50—Meets first Friday in Watsonville Labor Temple, 3rd Friday in Monterey Building Trades Hall at 8:00 p.m. Pres., Rufus Robinson, 200 Windham St., Santa Cruz; Sec., Frank Walker, 327 Alexander St., Salinas; Phone 9668.







Temo Organizer Visits Salinas

Pete Andrade, organizer for the Western Warehousemen and Produce Council, a Teamsters' affiliate, was in Salinas last week to look over the situation at the new dehydration plant.

Steps will be taken shortly to organize the expected 1000 workers of the new plant into an AFL union.

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Ontario Wagner Act Now Law; Company Union Set-up Banned

Toronto, Canada  
Following months of united campaigning by AFL and CIO unions, the Ontario government's labor bill has passed its third reading in the legislature and become law. The bill, which has been bitterly fought by Ontario business interests, guarantees that no employer "shall fail or refuse to bargain collectively with the duly appointed or elected representatives of a collective bargaining agency," nor "discriminate against an employee in any manner by reason of his membership in or activity in connection with a collective bargaining agency."

The act outlaws company unions by refusing to recognize as bargaining agencies "any such union or association the administration, management or policy of which is dominated, coerced or improperly influenced by the employer in any manner, whether by way of financial aid or otherwise."

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Legislature Emasculates Job Insurance

By LARRY COATS  
Sacramento, California.

At the rate things are going in the California Legislature, our boys are going to come back from this war to find:

1. The state unemployment insurance act virtually repealed.
2. The state sales tax cut by only one-half of one percent but income and corporation taxes slashed from 7 to 25 percent.
3. A virtual Gestapo established under the guise of legislative "un-American activity committees" which will look on any progressive labor movement or idea as "subversive."

About 15 bills emasculating the unemployment act are in the progress of going through the legislature. They nibble away at worker benefits a little here and a little there so that none of them, individually, appears very dangerous. **SEES DANGER AHEAD**

But if all, or even half of them get through, the workable act which has been developed in the last four years will be almost nullified. One of the most drastic measures passed out of an assembly committee this week would, by redefining agricultural labor, remove about 100,000 cannery workers and packers from benefits of the act.

The assembly has passed four bills materially reducing the state income and corporation taxes, about seven percent for the income taxes (from the present 15 percent) and as much as 25 percent for corporation taxes. The sales tax is sliced from three percent to two and one-half percent—in other words, if a working family man paid \$1,000 in sales taxes for the year he would save \$5.

**BACK TO OLSON IDEA?**

The senate, which would usually be 100 percent for such tax reductions, strangely enough may not only hold them up but defeat them this session. The senators have somehow swung over to the Olson idea of no tax reductions unless there is a guarantee of sufficient monies to keep the state out of the red.

**TENNEY'S "CRIMSON HUNT"**  
Senator Jack Tenney's red-baiting committee on un-American activities, flushed with success on its recent report, is asking for \$50,000 to continue snooping for the next two years. As the FBI has effectively taken care of Japanese and German aliens in California, there obviously is no one left for Tenney's men to go after except liberal U. S. citizens who will undoubtedly be placed on the "red" list.

UNIONISTS, YOU CAN FEEL PROUD OF THOSE SWELL 'FLYING FORTS'!

A B-17 Flying Fortress, manufactured by American trade union members, during a mission north of Guadalcanal demonstrated once again that this ship can take the worst the Jap planes can hand out and still get back to its home base, even though two of its motors were disabled.

The "Fort" sighted eight Jap planes in two formations over Beagle Channel. The Japs closed in, with the first enemy ship assuming a position 1,000 feet directly above the American plane. The Jap, or "Hap," as this type of plane is called by Americans, dropped its bombs in an attempt to hit the B-17. All of the first Jap's bombs exploded parallel with the Fortress, but ahead and behind the plane. Then one after another, the "Haps" assumed position and unloaded their bomb-lads. Some 20 to 30 bombs were dropped, but all missed the Fortress. During the bombing, the other "Haps" attacked the big American plane with their guns.

Over Munda Point, at least 7 more "Haps" joined the attack. Over New Georgia, the B-17 dived into clouds, but when it came out the enemy planes were right there waiting for it; with all guns blazing. The No. 1 engine caught fire and the No. 3 engine was throwing oil. Losing altitude, the B-17 crew prepared for a water landing.

The "Haps" attacked once more, but over Vangunu Island the B-17 was turned sharply and got under a cloud bank where it stayed for four minutes. Meantime, the engines were brought under control and the ship regained some altitude. When it emerged into the clear, the Jap planes were nowhere in sight. The B-17 flew a straight course to Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, where the damaged ship was landed.

I never could believe that Providence had sent a few men into the world, ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled to be ridden.—**RICHARD RUMBOLD**

HERO'S RETURN



—Official WPB Labor Press Service photo.  
In one of Utica's worst snowstorms of history, more than 2,500 textile workers battled over icy roads to greet Corp. John Bartek, a member of their union and one of the crew adrift with Captain Rickenbacker in the Pacific. Pictured above with Bartek in Utica's City Hall, are, left to right: James Dunlop, Utica Joint Board manager, TWU (CIO); Townsend Hand, WPB Labor Production Division representative who helped to arrange Bartek's tour; and Mayor Vincent R. Corrao.

'FREEZE' ORDER, WITHOUT CONTROLLED LIVING COSTS, DIRE THREAT TO UNIONISM

San Francisco, California.  
(CFLNL)—An impression seems to be current in reaction to the President's "Hold the Line" Order which can prove disastrous to the labor movement, unless second thought is applied. It is the attitude that a definition of "sub-standard living" by the War Labor Board will overcome the serious consequences flowing from the wage freeze order. Supplementing this position is the opinion that by clearly establishing a high sub-standard level, an avenue will be opened for the adjustment of wage demands of which there are now thousands waiting to be deposited in the overflowing waste baskets of the Board.

What this involves is of such serious importance to labor that it would be an inexcusable oversight, to say the least, if the Federation were to remain silent even though a program to meet this latest severe contingency is only in the process of being formulated. That this is not a vain and petulant protest but an effort to help clear the air becomes crystal clear when it is realized that the whole question of sub-standard living deals with minimum wages.

**THREAT TO UNIONISM**  
The labor movement is based on the sound and solid foundation of obtaining for labor its rightful share of the product it produces, based upon its productivity. Wage levels have been elevated for those workers who have seen the great advantages of organization to the point that the American standard of living has become the highest one throughout the world. No one can argue against the favorable wages being received by American workers. This was achieved by the ability of the American wage earners to train themselves in the various crafts, skilled and unskilled alike, and to produce on a scale as favorable as those existing anywhere in the world. Even today American labor has been able to far out-produce the slave labor under Hitler and similar Nazi set-ups. This is the greatest testimonial to the tremendous achievements obtained by American labor.

**MINIMUM WAGE IMPRACTICAL**  
Why, therefore, could there be any use in trying to work out a suitable minimum wage definition by the War Labor Board when the overwhelming majority of cases before it deal with wage inequalities and inequities, as well as legitimate wage increase demands based on labor's productive ability, the giganticly increased earnings of employers, and the skyrocketing cost of living, at a time when no effective control of prices is in sight? Furthermore, a substantial portion of these wage increase demands have already been concurred in by the employers involved.

To subscribe to a sub-standard of living formula would be at best to establish only a higher wage minimum, and it could become a prevalent wage and act like the law of gravity on union wages being paid at present by dragging them down to the established minimum wage. For those suffering sub-standard conditions and pay, a clearly and adequately established sub-standard living formula would help, but this would not begin to take care of the millions of wage earners who are asking for wage increases rightfully coming to them.

**PRICE CONTROL IMPERATIVE**  
The California State Federation of Labor will do everything it possible can to see that the legitimate wage demands now before the War Labor Board, and those to come, are handled so that the merit of their claims will be given consideration and not be choked by an unfair formula of prices. If prices could be controlled, then labor would be only too eager to continue its 100 per cent unconditional cooperation even at great sacrifices. Without price control, it is absolutely unfair to expect labor to assume the whole burden of the attempt to control inflation.

**POSTAL ODDITIES**  
MAIL TO UNCLE SAM'S  
ARMED FORCES IS THE LARGEST UNDERTAKING IN ALL POSTAL HISTORY!  
ORIGINATES FROM A FRENCH WORD, MALLE, MEANING BAG, WALLET OR TRUNK!  
"THE WORLD'S SMALLEST COMPLETE POST OFFICE!"  
JOHN C. BAXTER IS ASSISTANT POSTMASTER (HIS WIFE, POSTMISTRESS) IN THIS EDIFICE, WHICH IS EIGHT BY EIGHT FEET. (DE LUZ, CALIFORNIA!)

Have you ever wondered why we use the term "mail"? Data in my files informs me that the word comes from a Middle English word, male, from the French, malle, meaning "a bag, wallet, or trunk."

Soviet Plants Offer Awards For Inventors

Kuibyshev, U.S.S.R.

The number of workers receiving Stalin Prizes this year shows the great expansion of the Stakhanovite movement during the last year, Ivan Gudov, one of the founders of Stakhanovism and now a deputy to the Supreme Soviet and assistant director of the heavy machine-building industry, said recently. "In the course of the war, millions of new workers have become Stakhanovites," Gudov said. "Out of scores of thousands of inventions developed by workers in Soviet mines and factories, the production committees in the factories nominated 750 for Stalin Prizes."

**MINER WINS AWARDS**

The highest awards this year, running from 50,000 to 200,000 rubles (\$10,000 to \$40,000) went to Ivan Zazertalo, a young Ukrainian iron miner now working in the Urals, for a high-speed drilling method; Stepan Smirnov, a lathe hand in the Krasni Proletari ammunition factory, who worked on a rush war order from one Saturday morning till Wednesday night with only four hours sleep; Ivan Dmitrenko, a foreman in the Magnitogorsk steel mill, for a new mechanism for charging open-hearth furnaces; Sergei Davydov, a die maker in the Stalin Auto Works, for an improved process for manufacturing cutting tools; Ibrahim Valeev and Alexander Chalkov, Urals steel workers, for new smelting methods; and Feodor Mironov, a Kuzbas coal miner, for a new drill for cutting heavy coal seams.

**ANOTHER PLANT HERO**

In the summer of 1935 Ivan Gudov was one of ten workers in different industries who launched the Stakhanovite movement, named after Alexei Stakhanov, a Donbass coal miner. A year earlier, Gudov had entered a class for milling machine operators at the Ordjonikidze plant and had failed an examination in mathematics because he had never got beyond grammar school. He went to night school, found out how his machine was put together, and worked out a series of improvements making it possible to mill cast-iron valves in a fourth of the usual time. On the strength of this achievement, which inaugurated Stakhanovism in the machine tool industry, Gudov was elected to the Supreme Soviet. He attended the Industrial Academy in Moscow and has done experimental work for the Scientific and Technical Society. When production hitches develop in any plant in the heavy machine-building industry, Gudov changes into his working clothes and goes to work. He recently spent several weeks breaking a bottleneck in one of the machine shops in the Gorky Auto Works.

AFL APPROVES FEDERATION FOR UNIONS OF ALASKA

Juneau, Alaska  
The Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor was established at a convention held here recently consisting of representatives of central bodies and local organizations within the Territory affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The formation of the federation was approved by the AFL Executive Council.

The Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor is the fiftieth territorial federation formed by the AFL; of the forty-ninth was the Puerto Rico Free Federation of Workers.

The Alaska convention elected Frank Murphy acting general president and Beatrice Murphy general secretary-treasurer.

Acting General President Murphy appointed the following vice-presidents: Erik Larsen, Juneau; Albert Carlson, Sitka; Louise Weaver, Ketchikan; Bernice Gordon, Anchorage; Charles Skinner, Kodiak.

The general office of the Alaska Federation is at the American Federation of Labor Hall, Juneau, Alaska.

Four Freedoms?

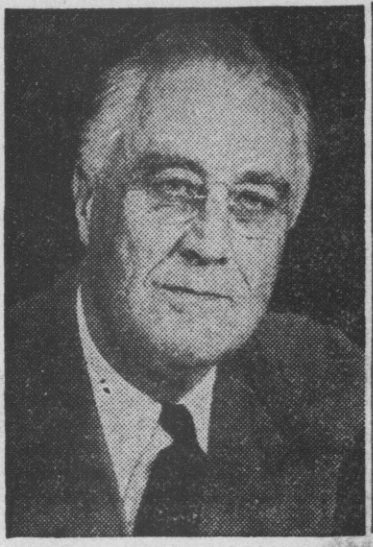
Arthur Garfield Hays, national director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Judge J. J. Goldstein of New York City have resigned from the American Bar Association because it has failed to admit a Negro proposed for membership.

RECORD OF 'SEABEES' ON FIGHTING FRONTS LAUDED BY CHIEFS OF NAVY DEPT.

Although it is scarcely a year since the first Seabee Battalion arrived at Island "X" to build the first springboard for America's global offensive, the record of this newest branch of the Navy staggers the imagination. All over the world, bases, airfields, and dock facilities have sprung up. Seabees, working at top speed, sometimes 24 hours a day, have carved modern bases out of primitive jungles.

A large proportion of Seabees are former union men, who were recruited with the close cooperation of Unions everywhere.

THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY



Below are the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, our Commander-in-Chief, in telling us of the heroic sacrifice of our aviators by the Tokyo war lords. You can express your personal determination to avenge our murdered flyers by buying more War Bonds today. They gave their lives. You lend your money.

"It is with a feeling of deepest horror which I know will be shared by all civilized peoples, that I have to announce the barbarous execution by the Japanese government of some of the members of the armed forces who fell into Japanese hands as an incident of warfare. "This recourse by our enemy to frightfulness is barbarous. The effort of the Japanese war lords thus to intimidate us will utterly fail. It will make the American people more determined than ever to blot out the shameless militarism of Japan."

The list that follows gives some idea of the marvelous work accomplished by Seabees in less than a year of operation:

1. Aided in the development of port and other facilities in Africa.

2. Took over the public works maintenance and operation of the Navy's bases in the United Kingdom.

**IN AFRICA CAMPAIGN**

3. Assisted in the North African movement which occurred in November.

4. Augmented civilian forces in Iceland to insure more rapid completion of the Navy's facilities in that country, and afforded a public works maintenance and operating force for all completed activities.

5. Augmented contractor's civilian forces in Argentina to insure more rapid completion of the Navy's facilities at that outpost.

6. Augmented contractor's civilian forces in Bermuda, Trinidad and various outlying bases in the 15th Naval District, and at the same time took over the public works maintenance and operation of all of these bases.

**ALASKA ACTIVITIES**

7. Took over practically all of the advance base construction work throughout the territory of Alaska, including Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Sitka and other points.

8. Replaced all contractor's civilian employees at outlying bases of the 14th Naval District, and carried to completion a large portion of the work contemplated for each of these bases. They are now maintaining and operating these bases insofar as the public works functions are concerned.

9. Constructed and continuing to construct advance base facilities for the fleet throughout the vast Pacific Area.

**"NEED MORE OF THEM"**

These remarks of Brigadier General R. J. Mitchell, U. S. Marine Corps, are typical of comments heard on all fronts concerning the work of the Seabees: "Without fail every military commander throughout the South Pacific mentioned and everyone was loud in his praise of accomplishments. It appears that the units have served a splendid purpose and that they have been carefully organized with highly skilled personnel, that they have been intelligently equipped, that they know their business and that their ingenuity and speed of work have been, indeed, remarkable. The only complaint heard, if this could be considered a complaint, was 'we need more of them!'"

**WANT MANY CRAFTS**

The Navy is still in need of experienced construction men for service in the Seabees. Mechanics, carpenters, riggers, stevedores, steel workers, electricians and many other skilled craftsmen between the ages of 17 and 50 can now volunteer for service. Salaries range from \$54 to \$126 a month plus 20% for overseas duty, and include quarters, food, clothing, transportation, medical and dental care, and other incidentals to which enlisted personnel are entitled. There are also allowances for dependents. Full information may be obtained at any Navy Recruiting Station.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANCE IS STRESSED BY FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

By WILLIAM J. LOGUE  
Senior Field Representative, Apprentice Training Service War Manpower Commission

The importance of continuing our apprentice training programs should be compared with the value in preserving any other condition in industry that is a monument to progress.

Organized labor's quick response in adopting apprenticeship training programs, recommended by our Federal Apprentice-Training Service and under leadership of labor-management committees, is significant of their being constantly alert to the perpetuation of craft skills. This is particularly true of the many local unions in California who have accepted apprentice training programs as a progressive issue.

The value of preserving determined ratios, wage rates, schedule of rotated work experiences, control over classes of related instruction and who teaches them, are far too important to let fall by the wayside.

Where class attendance has dropped to two or three or less, we have recommended consolidation of the metal trades apprentices — plumbers, steamfitters, sheet metal workers, electricians — to be given mathematics and blue print reading which is the same in any trade. Apprenticeship can and should be continued even with the 18 year olds being called into our armed forces, by those in 3A, 2B, or rejected by the military for flat feet, bad teeth, or "bum pump" can become excellent mechanics. Most important of all is our duty as patriotic American citizens to aid in rehabilitation of discharged war veterans who have incurred injuries in the defense of our country. The injuries may be of a slight nature such as a loss of a finger, toes, minor limb injuries, and slight shell shock, but not to the extent to prohibit finding a place for them in industry. In this respect age limitations is something that may have to undergo revisions.

In all our Department is at your service in assisting our local unions or the joint committees in any of their training problems.

**Building Work Continues Drop Throughout U. S.**  
Washington, D. C.  
Construction activity in the United States amounted to \$756,000,000 in February, five per cent below January and eight per cent below February of 1942.  
War housing and community facilities construction declined 12 per cent in February. The construction of privately-financed housing and of community facilities in places showed declines of 22 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, while government-financed housing remained at virtually the January level. Increases in all of these categories are estimated for March.